Comment Letter HH



## **UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS**

MARINE CORPS AIR STATION P.O. BOX 452000 SAN DIEGO, CA 92145-2001

> 11103 CP&L/Wind Ord EIR January 9, 2012

COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING & LAND USE ATTN MATTHEW SCHNEIDER 5201 RUFFIN ROAD, SUITE B SAN DIEGO CA 92123

RE: WIND ENERGY ZONING ORDINANCE AND GENERAL PLAN AMENDMENT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT; POD10-007, LOG NO. 09-00-003; SCH NO. 2010091030

Dear Mr. Schneider,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment on the County of San Diego draft Wind Energy Ordinance Amendment Environmental Impact Report. As a member of this community, Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Miramar shares your concerns on all quality of life issues.

After reviewing the document, our primary concern deals with the construction of large and small wind turbines under or in the vicinity of a Military Training Route (MTR). Wind turbines are a physical obstruction that can be a source of radar interference for military aircraft. Additionally, while located many miles away from a military installation, these structures can restrict low-level aircraft flights and in turn jeopardize the purpose of military installations and the integrity of the airspace. To ensure that military operations are not restricted in East San Diego County, we recommend that language be included in the revised ordinance that states that the military should be consulted when single and/or multiple large or small wind turbines are proposed for construction under any MTRs. This will ensure safety of flight for military aircraft, and allow the County of San Diego and project proponent to receive feedback directly from a prominent aviation user of airspace in that region. To assist with our recommendation, we have included a map showing MTRs in San Diego County (Enclosure (1)).

Thank you for the opportunity to review these proposed revisions. If we may be of any further assistance, please contact Mr. Juan Lias at (858) 577-6603.

HH-4

HH-3

HH-1

HH-2

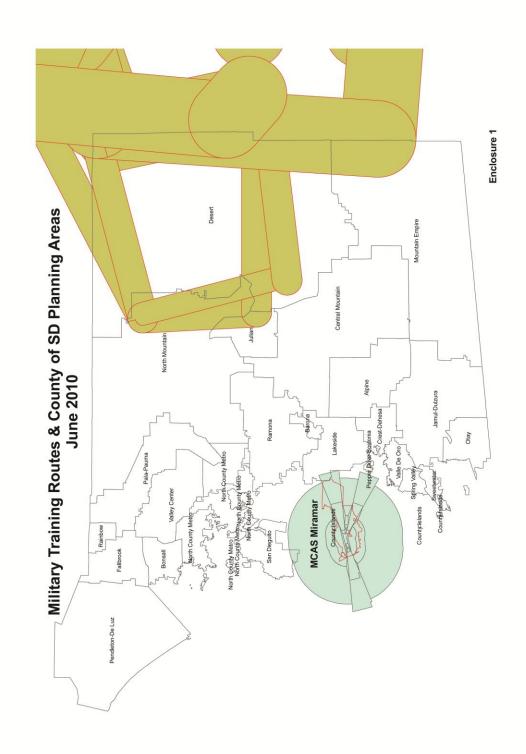
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Community Plans and Liaison Officer By direction of the Commanding Officer

Copy to: San Diego County Regional Airport Authority, Ed Gowens

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## **Response to Comment Letter HH**

## United States Marine Corps C. L. Thorton January 9, 2012

- **HH-1** This comment is introductory in nature and does not raise a significant environmental issue for which a response is required.
- HH-2 The County acknowledges and appreciates this comment. In response to this comment, the proposed ordinance has been revised to include a provision that will require notification to the military when small turbines are proposed in Military Training Routes. Administrative processing procedures are already in place to ensure the military is consulted on all large turbine projects during the discretionary review process. Finally, the County has coordinated with David Hulse, Community Plans and Liaison officer, NAVFAC Southwest to ensure the County's GIS Database includes all relevant Military Training Route data.
- **HH-3** See response to comment HH2 above.
- **HH-4** This comment is conclusive in nature and does not raise a significant environmental issue for which a response is required.

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